

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 CAB-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OC-05

CCO-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 OFA-01 INT-05 /097 W

----- 120870

R 171708Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO1343

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ELAB, IC

SUBJECT:GENERAL STRIKE BEGINS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0213

1. GENERAL STRIKE, DESCRIBED AS MOST WIDESPREAD IN ICELAND'S HISTORY, BEGAN AT 2400 LAST NIGHT. SOME 35,000 MEMBERS OF ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF LABOR HAVE ALREADY HALTED WORK, AND WITHIN FEW DAYS TOTAL IS EXPECTED TO CLIMB TO 43,000 OR VIRTUALLY ENTIRE IFL MEMBERSHIP.

2. STRIKE INVOLVES WORK FORCE IN KEY ELEMENTS OF PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND RETAIL SECTORS, AND MAN IN STREET WILL FEEL EFFECTS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. SHOP AND OFFICE WORKERS,
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WHO MAKE UP NATION'S LARGEST SINGLE UNION, ARE AMONG STRIKERS, MEANING THAT MOST RETAIL OUTLETS, EXCEPT FAMILY-

OPERATEDONE, WILLBE CLOSED. MILK ANDGASOLINE WILL BE UN-
AVAILABLETO PUBLIC UNLESS HUMANITARIAN OR OTHER EXCEPTIONS
APPLY. COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNA-
TIONAL, HAS STOPPED, ALTHOUGH CITY BUSES ANDTAXIS WILL RN
ATLEAST WHILEGASOLINE STOCKS HOLD OUT. BANKS REMAIN
OPEN, AND NEWSPAPERS WILL CONTINUETO PUBLISH FOR TIME
BEING. MEDICAL FACILITIES -- INCLUDING PHARMACIES-- AND
RELATED EMERGENCY SERVICES ARELARGELY UNAFFECTED.

3. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONSARE CONTINUING, BUT QUICK SOLUTION
IS NOT IN SIGHT. IFL PRESIDENTBJORN JONSSONTOLD PRESS
THATTHEREWOULD BE NO END OR EASING OF STRIKE UNTIL FULL
SETTLEMENTTERMS REACHED.

4. MAJOR STRIKE BYTRAWLER CREWS BEGAN SATURDAY AS
SCHEDULED (REFTEL). CAPELIN SEASON IS AT PEAK, AND HEAVY
LOSSES IN FISHING INDUSTRY ARE FEARED IF STRIKELASTS.
IRVING

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NNN

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